

Service Unit Directors

Spring is here! Time for warmer weather, blooming flowers, and celebrations. We hope you will be planning a special event to thank all of your volunteers who are earning awards and Troop Leaders who have stepped up to make this year successful. Your collective work has proven that Girl Scouts can overcome any obstacle that arises.

Also, make some special time for [bridging troops](#). National Bridging Week is scheduled for June 12-19, 2021. Troops can bridge anytime convenient for the group, but it would be fun to bridge during nation-wide celebrations. Please remind Troop Leaders that there are bridging awards as well. The requirements are in the [online bridging guide](#) and the Volunteer Toolkit.

1. Service Unit Training Opportunities

Over the last four months, we have featured learning opportunities for Service Unit teams. The last training in the series is [Goal Setting](#). This might come in handy as we work toward meeting our renewal goals and make plans for the 2021-22 membership year. We hope you had a chance to review the trainings [Leading Effective Digital Meetings](#), [Developing and Growing your Service Unit Team](#), and [Leading Effective Meetings](#). Please send some feedback back to us on what you thought of these sessions.

2. Becoming Me: for Young Readers

This spring, we're excited to collaborate with Penguin Random House and former First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama to introduce the Becoming Me program, inspired by themes from Mrs. Obama's *Becoming: Adapted for Young Readers*. Through the Becoming Me program, girls will earn badges, explore who they want to become through journaling, and then join their Girl Scout sisters across the country for a members-only virtual event with Mrs. Obama in May. The Becoming Me event with Mrs. Obama is open to members who join or renew (beginning April 1). Sign up and get notified when registration opens so you can be among the first to access this members-only event. New updates are coming in every day, so sign up to get updates: <http://bit.ly/3vkTPdV>

3. Renewal

Each spring kicks off membership renewal so girls, volunteers, and council staff can begin planning a new and exciting year in Girl Scouts. Renewing memberships in the spring helps our council make plans for summer and fall recruitments, programs for the upcoming year, and resources needed to support troops in our region. Renewal begins on April 1, 2021, and you and your girls will want to renew right away because we have exciting but limited incentives.

Girls who renew by June 30, 2021	Troop Leaders who renew by June 30, 2021
Girls have a choice of free metal water bottle or \$5 in Program Credit	Volunteers have a choice of a free tote or \$5 shop coupon
Girls will be enrolled automatically in instant mystery reward drawings	
Free access to virtual troops, meeting monthly August 2021-May 2022	

Find more information about membership renewal at www.girlscoutstoday.org/renew.

P.S. Service Unit Directors will qualify to choose one free apparel item (up to \$15 value) if they achieve 57% of girls renewed by July 31, 2021.

4. Extended Memberships

Beginning April 1, 2021, GSUSA will add the extended year membership (EYM) option for any girl or volunteer who becomes a new member or renews a lapsed membership at this halfway point in the current membership year. Purchasing a membership now for \$35 provides girls and volunteers with an active membership through September 30, 2022. This is a great option for girls entering Kindergarten in the fall. For this year only, girls and volunteers who “skipped” this year can also renew their membership using the \$35 extended year option and join us again for events and activities.

5. Lifetime Memberships

Are you looking for a gift for your graduating Ambassador Girl Scouts? Recent high school graduates can get a lifetime membership for \$200, half of the regularly priced \$400 lifetime membership. What a great way to keep them connected for many years to come? Troop Leaders who have volunteered for ten or more years can now purchase lifetime memberships for \$200 instead of \$400, too. Registration for lifetime membership will open on April 1, 2021.

6. New Daisy Recruitment

Throughout the upcoming spring and summer, our Community Engagement Managers will be partnering with schools to celebrate girls graduating Pre-Kindergarten and getting ready for Kindergarten. We are excited to welcome rising kindergarteners into our program, and we’re planning both virtual and in-person outdoor events to give girls and parents the chance to see what Girl Scouts is all about. Be on the lookout for park events happening near you, and invite the future-kindergarteners in your life to attend!

7. Imagine Nation

Girls and volunteers are invited to enter their own ‘Imagine Nation’ as they color their big and bold new year. These special kickoff events will take place throughout the council in May. As our first opportunity to gather together in 2021, these events bring troops together to celebrate their accomplishments. The action-packed events will create an exciting experience of learning new Girl Scout skills and see what is coming next in our program.

Renewal stations will be at each event for girls and volunteers so they can pick up their incentives and start imagining a colorful year to come! Pop-up shops will also be at each event with fun items and vinyl stickers for \$1 so girls can begin collecting stickers for their new water bottles.

Find an Imagine Nation coming up near you! These free events will be popping up on www.girlscoutstoday.org/events.

Sunday, May 2 – Riverside Park, Spillville
Saturday, May 8 – Girl Scout Office, Bettendorf
Saturday, May 8 – Camp Little Cloud, Epworth
Saturday, May 8 – Camp L-Kee-Ta, Danville
Saturday, May 15 – Waterloo
Saturday, May 22 – Hauberg Mansion, Rock Island
Saturday, May 23 – Lake Macbride Main Lodge, Solon

8. Cookie Update

Thank you! As a cookie volunteer, we know you work hard and give so much during Girl Scout Cookie season to ensure success for the girls in your troop, so thank you! We truly appreciate your lead-taking, logistics crushing, mountain-moving, make-it-happen-no matter-what spirit, and we know we can't do this without you.

Cookie rewards will be delivered to the Service Unit Product Managers in mid-late April. Program credit emails will go out to parents within a couple of weeks of the end of the Cookie Program, and council staff will contact the parents of Girl Scouts who sold 800+ packages to arrange for those rewards if program credit was not chosen. You can run a report to see the rewards earned by the girls in your troop under the rewards tab in eBudde.

9. Volunteer Toolkit-Finance Tab

The Finance tab in the Volunteer Toolkit is active and accessible to troops! This troop tool gives a place to record troop income and expenses throughout the troop year. Parents can view when they log into the Volunteer Toolkit or troop volunteers can print a copy to share with families. Troops can start using the finance tab and update the information on the Finance Tab as the year progresses. All troops should submit their finance reports by August 31, 2021.

10. Voices Count Survey

Girl Scouts of the USA will be sending a national survey to girls, parents/caregivers, and Troop Leaders called Girl Scout Voices Count. At Girl Scouts, we care about your experience, and we want to hear from you! Share what's going well or what needs some work. We will use your feedback to determine if girls are reaching Girl Scout outcomes, improve services, and understand the impact of Girl Scout programs. Girl, parent, Troop Leader surveys are open April 5 – April 30, with reminders. Once completed, the reminders stop - though you may get more than one survey for members of your family and you. Service Unit volunteer surveys are scheduled for May 10-June 4. Thank you for letting your voice count!

BONUS: Let's Venture Outdoors

Girl Scout Tree Promise: Girl Scouts promise to plant five million trees in the next five years! Join our mission to protect the planet from the effects of climate change. Girl Scouts is launching a bold environmental and conservation initiative in April 2021. We're setting out to plant five million trees in five years and protect and honor new and existing trees. Not only is this great for wildlife, but it'll also provide climate change mitigation and benefit our communities. To participate in the Girl Scout Tree Promise patch program, girls will take the Girl Scout Tree Promise and then plant, protect, or honor trees. [Find out more](#) about the Girl Scout Tree Promise.

Into the Wild: Summer camp sessions are still available at Camp Liberty, Camp Little Cloud, and Camp L-Kee-Ta! Just added, Into the Wild will have girls ages 12 and older put their outdoor skills to the test or learn new ones! During the day, they will join the Dubuque County Hunter Safety instructors and the Iowa DNR Conservation Officers to learn outdoor survival, orienteering, fishing, and gun safety. Campers will return to Camp Little Cloud in the evenings with their counselors to cook over a fire, swim in the pool, and more. Into the Wild is July 26-29, 2021. [Register to attend!](#)

Courage Confidence, Campfires: Would you like to take your troop camping? Have you completed the outdoor skills training but still nervous about taking your troop out on their first camping trip? Have you done a couple of overnights in the outdoors but still do not feel totally at ease? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we have the event for you! Courage, Confidence, and Campfires is an outdoor training event designed and run by experienced Girl Scout outdoorswomen who have been in your shoes and felt what you are feeling before. The COVID-safe event offers five different pathways specifically designed to give you the skills and knowledge to create a successful outdoor experience with your troop. Courage, Confidence, and Campfires is May 1, 2021. [Register to attend!](#)

Upcoming Events

Leading the Way | April 10, 2021
Honoring Excellence | April 10, 2021
Leader Appreciation Day | April 22, 2021
Courage, Confidence, and Campfires | May 1
Mental Health Day | May 8
National Bridging Week | June 12-19
Raise your Voice | June 18-20
SUD Retreat | August 20-21

Find programs at www.girlscoutstoday.org/events.

Keep Updated

Website – www.girlscoutstoday.org
Email – info@girlscoutstoday.org
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